General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 April 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 133

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 6 April 2017

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/71/717/Add.1)*]

71/283. Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 60/254 of 8 May 2006, section I of its resolution 60/260 of 8 May 2006 and its resolutions 60/283 of 7 July 2006, 61/245 of 22 December 2006, 63/276 of 7 April 2009, 64/259 of 29 March 2010, 66/257 of 9 April 2012, 67/253 of 12 April 2013, 68/264 of 9 April 2014, 69/272 of 2 April 2015 and 70/255 of 1 April 2016,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat and the accountability of the Secretary-General for the performance of the Secretariat to all Member States,

Emphasizing that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention and strong commitment at all levels of the Secretariat, especially at the highest level,

Recognizing and reaffirming the important role of the oversight bodies in the development of an accountability system that is relevant to the United Nations,

Having considered the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Having also considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations[3] and the related note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat;[1]

[1] A/71/729.
[2] A/71/820.
[3] A/71/731.
[4] A/71/731/Add.1.

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2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

3. *Stresses*, as one of the essential components of accountability, the importance of compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, its resolutions and the regulations and rules;

4. *Also stresses* the indispensable roles of external and internal oversight mechanisms, carried out through regular audit reviews and the issuance of pertinent recommendations, and that the full and timely implementation of the recommendations of oversight bodies, which are aimed at strengthening the performance of managers in monitoring the activities for which they are held accountable, is an essential part of any effective system of accountability;

5. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination related to the preparation of a single set of definitions, to be agreed upon across the United Nations system, of what constitutes fraud, as well as suspected or presumptive fraud, and requests the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to foster this work so as to expedite the completion of this set of definitions and to report thereon in the context of the seventh progress report;

6. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Framework of the United Nations Secretariat and the update of the policy on protection against retaliation, and requests the Secretary-General to strengthen them and to report on their implementation and the impact of measures taken in the seventh progress report;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive fraud risk assessment by mid-2017 in order to better implement internal controls and policies on fraud at Headquarters and in the field missions, and to provide an update in the context of the seventh progress report;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to update the legal instruments for engaging third parties, such as vendors and implementing partners, with particular attention to anti-fraud clauses and provisions;

9. *Notes* the progress made in implementing the enterprise risk management system throughout the Organization, including in peacekeeping operations, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the system in all peacekeeping operations and to provide the General Assembly with updates in the context of the seventh progress report;

10. *Acknowledges* the importance of further developing the guidelines for the preparation of agreements with donors and implementing partners, including updating the Financial Rules of the United Nations;

11. *Welcomes* the updated policy on protection against retaliation, and emphasizes the need for clear communication and effective implementation and enforcement of the policy in order to ensure a culture of protection and enhance accountability within the Organization;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enhance the processes and responses of the Organization to ensure that it encourages the reporting of serious misconduct, protects whistle-blowers from retaliation and intervenes to prevent retaliation from occurring;

13. *Reaffirms* that results-based management and performance reporting are essential pillars of a comprehensive accountability framework;

14. *Notes* that the Secretary-General did not include in the sixth progress report a detailed plan, with a fixed time frame and clear milestones, for the implementation of results-based management in the regular functioning of the Organization, and reiterates its request that he include such a detailed plan in the seventh progress report;

15. *Recalls* paragraph 7 of its resolution 70/255, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to use the tracking mechanism to monitor the status of the implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions on administrative and budgetary matters and to include comprehensive information on the implementation of such resolutions in the biennial programme performance report;

16. *Reiterates* that both senior managers' compacts and the staff performance management system are important tools for the accountability system, and requests the Secretary-General to incorporate in these tools specific, measurable and time-bound performance goals so that they may become meaningful and powerful instruments of accountability;

17. *Emphasizes* that the timely submission of documents is an important aspect of the Secretariat's accountability to Member States, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued inclusion in the senior managers' compacts of a related managerial indicator and to report on this issue in the seventh progress report;

18. *Stresses* the need for the Secretary-General to address the deficiencies in the current delegation of authority system through the promulgation of well-defined roles and responsibilities of individuals at all levels to whom authority is delegated, systemic reporting mechanisms on monitoring and exercise of delegated authority and actions to be taken in cases of mismanagement or abuse of authority;

19. *Recalls* paragraph 23 of its resolution 70/255, and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General include in his next annual progress report substantiated evidence of the results of action taken to strengthen the accountability framework and an assessment of the delivery of key transformational initiatives, their impact on the accountability framework, including enterprise risk management, anti-fraud and anti-corruption controls, and the additional action necessary to further strengthen accountability within the Secretariat;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to brief the Fifth Committee during the main part of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly on progress made in the preparation of the seventh progress report.

74th plenary meeting
6 April 2017

General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.61/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

71/284. World Creativity and Innovation Day

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and the functions and powers of the United Nations system, especially in promoting international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that the organization, as part of its purposes and functions, will maintain, increase and diffuse knowledge by encouraging cooperation among the nations in all branches of intellectual activity,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[1]

Underlining the need to focus on the importance of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in promoting innovation, creativity and decent work for all, as recognized in its resolution 71/279 of 6 April 2017,

Acknowledging that innovation is essential for harnessing the economic potential of each nation and the importance of supporting mass entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, which create new momentum for economic growth and job creation and expand opportunities for all, including women and youth,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on culture and sustainable development,[2] in which it is stated that cultural and creative industries should be part of economic growth strategies,

[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.
[2] See A/69/216.

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Recalling also its resolutions 54/120 of 17 December 1999 on policies and programmes involving youth, 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development and 68/223 of 20 December 2013 on culture and sustainable development,

Recalling further its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

Taking note of the findings contained in the special edition of the Creative Economy Report, co-published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in November 2013, in which it is stated that human creativity and innovation, at both the individual and group levels, have become the true wealth of nations in the twenty-first century,

Taking note also of the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, and the call therein to take action in global partnership to promote creative environments, processes and products,

Recognizing that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

Recognizing also that citizens and organizations in more than 50 countries around the world already observe World Creativity and Innovation Day, which was first commemorated on 21 April 2002,

1. *Decides* to designate 21 April as World Creativity and Innovation Day;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the role of creativity and innovation in problem-solving and, by extension, economic, social and sustainable development;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals.

79th plenary meeting
27 April 2017

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 May 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.63)*]

71/285. United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4 of 20 April 2017, in which the Council adopted the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its special session held on 20 January 2017,[1]

Decides to adopt the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 as contained in annex I to Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4.

79th plenary meeting
27 April 2017

[1] See E/2017/10.

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General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 May 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 April 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.64)*]

71/286. United Nations forest instrument

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007, in which the General Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

Recalling also its resolution 70/199 of 22 December 2015 on the United Nations forest instrument,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4 of 20 April 2017, adopted on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its special session held on 20 January 2017,[1]

Decides to amend the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (*b*) of the United Nations forest instrument[2] to read: "To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] and the Sustainable Development Goals".

79th plenary meeting
27 April 2017

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[1] See E/2017/10.

[2] See resolutions 62/98 and 70/199.

[3] Resolution 70/1.

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General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 May 2017

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 106

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 May 2017

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.65)*]

71/287. Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/179 of 17 December 2015, in which it recalled the holding of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[1] and in which it decided to appraise on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate,

Recalling also its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, by which it adopted the Global Plan of Action,

Recalling further its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[2] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3]

Recalling its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[1] will be held on Wednesday, 27 September, and Thursday, 28 September 2017, and will consist of an opening plenary meeting on 27 September from

[1] Resolution 64/293.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

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10 to 11 a.m., plenary meetings on 27 September from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on 28 September from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., and a closing plenary meeting after the list of speakers has been exhausted, as well as two consecutive interactive panel discussions on 27 September in the afternoon;

2. *Also decides* that:

(*a*) The opening plenary meeting will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as an eminent person actively engaged in the fight against trafficking in persons and a representative of civil society, at least one of whom should be a survivor of human trafficking and both of whom are to be identified by the President of the Assembly;

(*b*) The plenary meeting will hear statements by Member States and all observers of the General Assembly, the list of speakers will be established in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the Assembly and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

3. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the interactive panel discussions to be held on 27 September 2017 in the afternoon, each to be chaired by a Member State at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, after consultations with regional groups, will be as follows:

(*a*) Interactive panel discussion 1, to be held from 3 to 4.30 p.m., will address the theme "The Global Plan of Action and effective partnerships for the prevention and prosecution of trafficking in persons: achievements, gaps and challenges, also taking into consideration the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals";

(*b*) Interactive panel discussion 2, to be held from 4.30 to 6 p.m., will address the theme "The Global Plan of Action and effective partnerships for the protection of and assistance to victims, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also taking into consideration the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals";

(*c*) The Chairs of the interactive panel discussions will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting, followed by final remarks by the President of the General Assembly;

(*d*) In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in each panel discussion will include Member States, observers, representatives of United Nations organizations and entities, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and the media;

4. *Invites* Member States and all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

5. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their delegations to the high-level meeting members of national human rights institutions, representatives of law enforcement, parliamentarians, representatives of civil

society active in combating trafficking in persons, survivors of trafficking in persons and representatives of the private sector;

6. *Invites* all relevant United Nations system entities, in particular the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, to participate in the high-level meeting;

7. *Also invites* interested representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the high-level meeting;

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive panel discussions, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;

9. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, to organize, no later than July 2017, and to preside over a one-day informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, attended by representatives of Member States, all observers of the General Assembly, national human rights institutions compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles),[4] non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector, welcomes their contribution to the process, and requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing;

10. *Further requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session to hold open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States, through two co-facilitators to be appointed by the President, with a view to producing a short and concise political declaration for adoption at the opening plenary of the high-level meeting, on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meetings, taking into account the duration of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the representative from civil society to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the interactive panel discussions, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation;

12. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector entities and other relevant stakeholders to consider supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries, including representatives of non-governmental organizations from those countries, in order to ensure the broadest possible participation, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures in this regard;

[4] Resolution 48/134, annex.

13. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting shall be webcast;

14. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was established by the Global Plan of Action.

80th plenary meeting
4 May 2017